

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the instant application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The A sign ~~of claim 1~~ further comprising:

a light diffusion layer having front and back faces;

means for lighting disposed on or in close proximity to said light diffusion layer;

a masking layer covering at least a portion of the front face of the light diffusion layer and defining at least one character or symbol of said sign; and

a reflective layer disposed between the front face of the diffusion layer and a rear face of the masking layer, wherein said reflective layer covers at least a portion of the front face of the diffusion layer.

4. (Currently Amended) The A sign ~~of claim 1~~ further comprising:

a light diffusion layer having front and back faces;

means for lighting disposed on or in close proximity to said light diffusion layer;

a masking layer covering at least a portion of the front face of the light diffusion layer and defining at least one character or symbol of said sign; and

a reflective layer covering at least a portion of the back face of the diffusion layer.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The A ~~sign of claim 1~~ further comprising:

a light diffusion layer having front and back faces;

means for lighting disposed on or in close proximity to said light diffusion layer;

a masking layer covering at least a portion of the front face of the light diffusion layer and defining at least one character or symbol of said sign;

a first reflective layer disposed between the front face of the diffusion layer and a rear face of the masking layer, wherein said first reflective layer covers at least a portion of the front face of the diffusion layer; and

a second reflective layer covering at least a portion of the back face of the diffusion layer.

6. **(Cancelled)**

7. **(Original)** A sign having at least one character or symbol wherein each character or symbol comprises:

a light diffusion layer having front and back faces, wherein said light diffusion layer defines a plurality of cavities;

a plurality of light emitting members wherein each light emitting member is at least partially disposed within one of said plurality of cavities; and

a masking layer covering at least a portion of the front face of the light diffusion layer.

8. (Original) The sign of claim 7 further comprising a reflective layer disposed between the front face of the diffusion layer and a rear face of the masking layer, wherein said reflective layer covers at least a portion of the front face of the diffusion layer.

9. (Original) The sign of claim 7 further comprising a reflective layer covering at least a portion of the back face of the diffusion layer.

10. (Original) The sign of claim 7 further comprising:

a first reflective layer disposed between the front face of the diffusion layer and a rear face of the masking layer, wherein said first reflective layer covers at least a portion of the front face of the diffusion layer; and

a second reflective layer covering at least a portion of the back face of the diffusion layer.

11. (Original) The sign of claim 7 wherein a light dispersion angle of each light emitting member ranges from about 30° to about 180° .

12. (Original) The sign of claim 7 wherein a light dispersion angle of each light emitting member ranges from about 70° to about 120° .

13. (Original) The sign of claim 7 wherein a longitudinal axis of each cavity is oriented substantially perpendicular to the back face of the light diffusion layer.

14. **(Original)** The sign of claim 7 wherein a longitudinal axis of each cavity is oriented substantially parallel to the back face of the light diffusion layer.

15. **(Original)** The sign of claim 7 wherein the diffusion layer forms a border around at least a portion of a perimeter of said masking layer.

16. **(Original)** The sign of claim 7 wherein said masking layer has substantially the same shape as the diffusion layer but of smaller dimensions so that the diffusion layer forms a border around substantially the entire perimeter of said masking layer.

17. **(Original)** The sign of claim 16 wherein said border is of a uniform width.

18. **(Original)** The sign of claim 16 wherein said border is not of a uniform width.

19. **(Original)** The sign of claim 7 wherein each light emitting member comprises a light emitting diode.

20. **(Original)** The sign of claim 7 wherein said light diffusion layer comprises, at least in part, an acrylic material.

21. **(Original)** The sign of claim 7 wherein said light diffusion layer comprises an acrylic matrix material having particles dispersed therein.

22. **(Original)** The sign of claim 21 wherein said particles reflect light.

23. **(Original)** The sign of claim 7 wherein said light diffusion layer comprises, at least in part, a fluorescent material.

24. (Original) The sign of claim 7 further comprising a battery for supplying electrical power to each light emitting member.

25. (Original) The sign of claim 24 further comprising means for donning said sign.

26. (Original) A sign having at least one character or symbol wherein each character or symbol comprises:

a light diffusion layer having front and back faces, wherein said light diffusion layer defines a plurality of cavities and a longitudinal axis of each cavity is oriented substantially perpendicular to the back face of the light diffusion layer;

a plurality of light emitting members wherein each light emitting member is at least partially disposed within one of said plurality of cavities;

an opaque masking layer covering at least a portion of the front face of the light diffusion layer;

a first reflective layer disposed between the front face of the diffusion layer and a rear face of the opaque masking layer, wherein said first reflective layer covers at least a portion of the front face of the diffusion layer; and

a second reflective layer covering at least a portion of the back face of the diffusion layer.

27-31. (Cancelled)